## Mystic Greenways: South Medford Connector

### Project Description

Complete the Mystic Greenway network in South Medford to increase transit-use, walking and biking - ultimately reducing vehicular traffic in the area. This project will provide schematic design and engineering for the 1.6-mile missing link of the Mystic River shared-use path in South Medford (Figure 1). This active transportation route will connect major employment centers and commercial destinations (Medford Square, Assembly Row, Station Landing, particularly Partners HealthCare, Wynn Casino) and MBTA transit stations that provide access to downtown Boston (Assembly Row, Sullivan Square).

### Background

Medford and East Somerville will see a significant increase in both residential and commercial development over the next two decades (Figure 2). Just across the Mystic River in Everett, the $2.1 billion Wynn Boston Harbor is under construction and will open in 2019. Together, these developments will have a huge effect on local and regional transportation, increasing car congestion on roads that are already at capacity.

A seamless network of walking and biking paths around the Mystic River would mitigate this impact and provide a viable active transportation system for getting people to work, school and commercial destinations. The first step to realizing this system and getting people out of cars – especially during peak commuting hours – is to build the necessary infrastructure. A study of US metropolitan areas found that an increase of 1 bike lane mile per square mile is associated with a 1 percent increase in the share of commuters traveling by bicycle (Dill & Carr, 2003). Furthermore, building safe and accessible walking and biking facilities is one of the most cost-effective transportation investments [1] [2].

Right now 80% of the network already exists or is designed, but there are several key gaps and degraded sections that prevent the Mystic Greenways from reaching their potential. This project will provide schematic design and engineering for 1.6 miles of waterfront path in South Medford (1 mile a missing link and .6 miles in substandard condition) – and connect Medford Square, Assembly Row and Station Landing – all important transit, employment, residential and commercial centers in the Wynn Casino Study and Impact Areas (Figure 3). This is an important first step to a completed waterfront path network that will increase mobility and bring public/environmental health benefits to local communities for years to come.

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[1] Investments in trails, bike lanes, and bicycle-sharing systems have high levels of return on investment. Regions and cities have found that relatively small investments in active transportation can have outsized economic returns due to improved health and environmental outcomes and reduced negative externalities, such as automobile traffic congestion and poor air quality. (http://uli.org/wp-content/uploads/ULI-Documents/Active-Transportation-and-Real-Estate-The-Next-Frontier.pdf)

[2] Congestion can be reduced by a modal shift from car to walking and cycling since these modes are more space efficient – as cars need more road space than other modes (Litman 2014). Compared with strategies such as roadway expansion, the strengthening of walking and cycling is considered more effective in the long-term. Finally, there are several co-benefits of promoting walking and cycling in addition to congestion reduction, namely: less car traffic and more walking and cycling makes transport more affordable, improves personal health, reduces air and noise pollution and is less expensive than car-dominated urban transport (e.g. Nash & Whitelegg 2016, Rudolph et al. 2015). (http://h2020-flow.eu/uploads/tx_news/FLOW_REPORT_-_Portfolio_of_Measures_v_06_web.pdf)

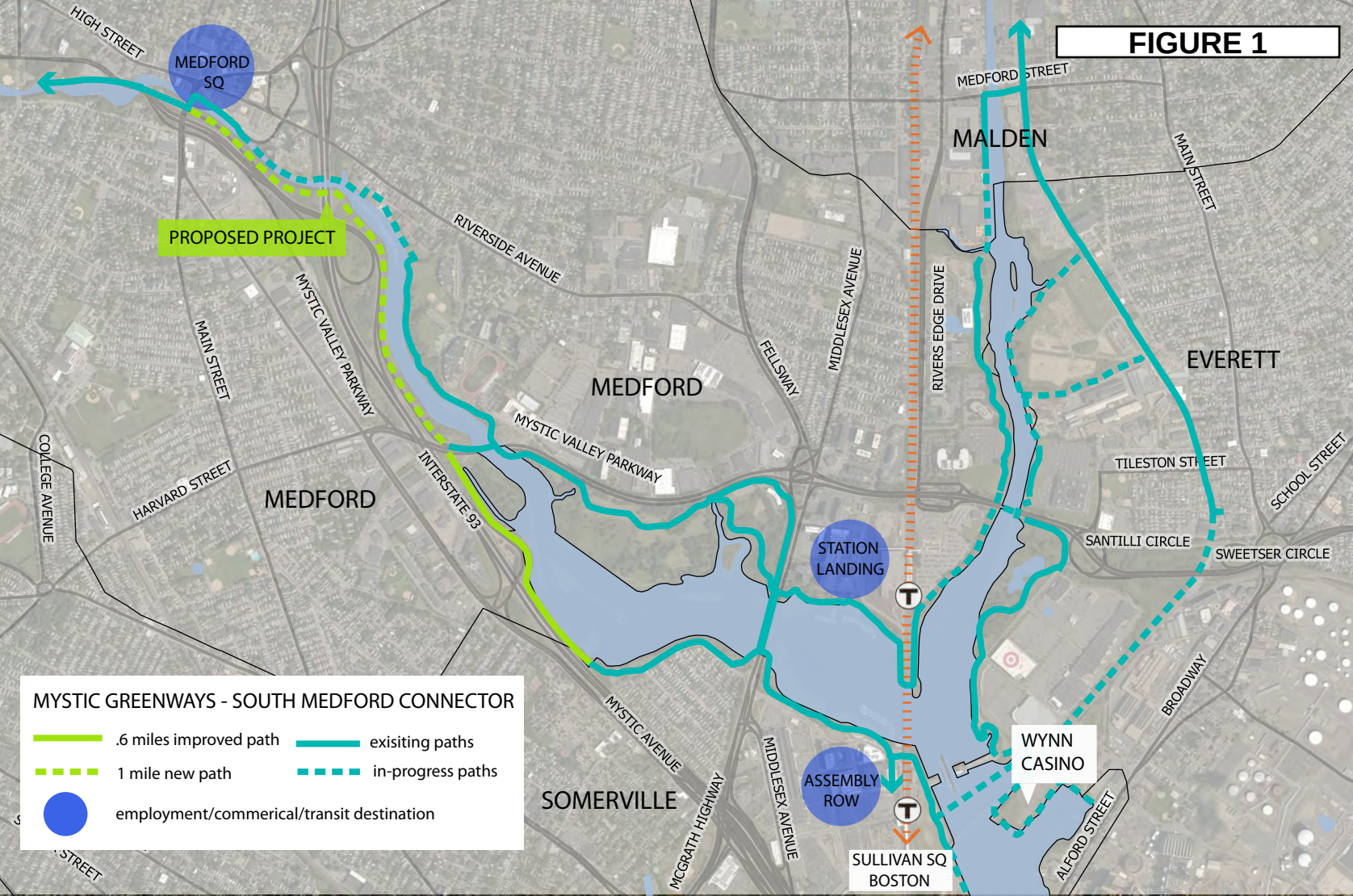
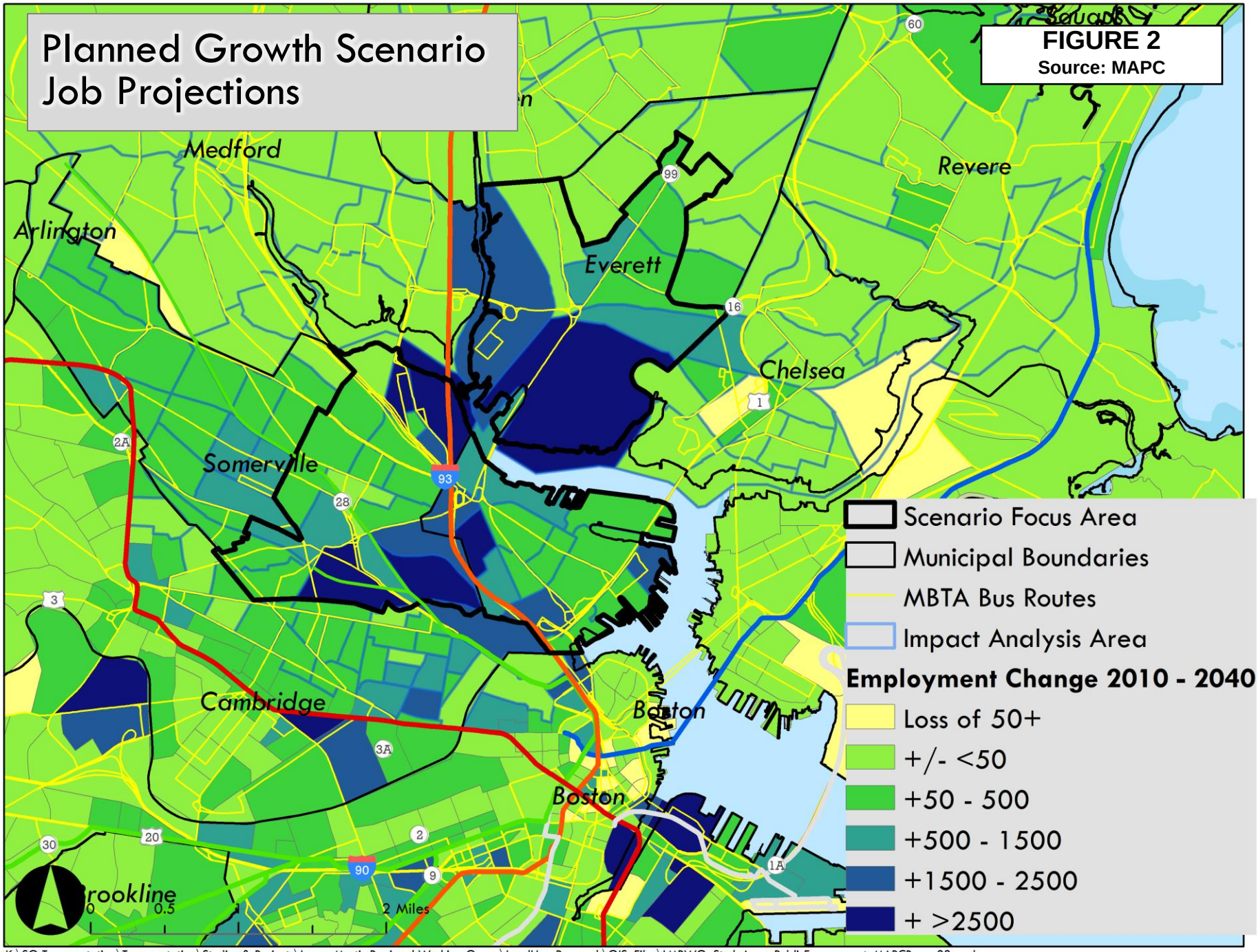


FIGURE 1
HIGH STREET
MEDFORD SQ
PROPOSED PROJECT
RIVERSIDE AVENUE
MYSTIC VALLEY PARKWAY
MAIN STREET
COLLEGE AVENUE
HARVARD STREET
MEDFORD
MEDFORD
MYSTIC VALLEY PARKWAY
INTERSTATE 93
FELLSWAY
MIDDLESEX AVENUE
RIVERS EDGE DRIVE
MEDFORD STREET
MALDEN
MAIN STREET
EVERETT
TILESTON STREET
SCHOOL STREET
SANTILLI CIRCLE
SWEETSER CIRCLE
STATION LANDING
BROADWAY
WYNN CASINO
ASSEMBLY ROW
MYSTIC AVENUE
MCGRATH HIGHWAY
MIDDLESEX AVENUE
SOMERVILLE
SULLIVAN SQ BOSTON
ALFORD STREET
MYSTIC GREENWAYS - SOUTH MEDFORD CONNECTOR
.6 miles improved path
exisiting paths
1 mile new path
in-progress paths
employment/commerical/transit destination

# Planned Growth Scenario Job Projections

**FIGURE 2**
**Source: MAPC**

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# The Study Area

**FIGURE 3**
**Source: MAPC**